



HOUSE BILL 992: Azalea Festival/Official Spring Celebration.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government II	Date:	June 5, 2018
Introduced by:	Rep. Davis	Prepared by:	Cindy Avrette
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 992 would adopt the North Carolina Azalea Festival as the official celebration of spring in North Carolina, and appropriates \$10,000 in non-recurring funds for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to promote the celebration.*

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 145 of the General Statutes contains many State symbols and other official State adoptions.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 992 would do two things:

- Adopt the North Carolina Azalea Festival as the official celebration of spring in North Carolina.
- Appropriate \$10,000 in nonrecurring revenues for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to promote the celebration.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The appropriation would become effective July 1, 2018, and the remainder is effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: The North Carolina Azalea Festival is held annually in Wilmington, NC, during the month of April when the bloom cycle for the City's one million azaleas begins. It has celebrated the season of spring continuously since 1948. The mission of the Festival is to be nationally recognized as a showcase for the community's rich array of artwork, gardens, history, and culture through recreational, educational, and family-oriented events. The Festival encourages volunteerism and civic participation as it contributes to the region's economy and promotes the unique qualities of Wilmington's river-to-the-sea community.

The Festival draws nationally recognized touring artists and guests. It is regularly selected as a Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events in April, and it has won numerous awards and recognitions.

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